

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, line 30 through page 6, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

--Figure 5 shows an outline stent pattern 40 which may be used to create a stent from a piece of material 20. The pattern 40 forms an outline defining material to be removed 42 from the stock material 20. The material to be removed 42 can be cut from the stock material 20 to form a plurality of cells 41. Thus, a stent may be formed which comprises a generally cylindrical framework having a plurality of cells 41. Cells 41 are generally bounded by material 20 that is left according to the pattern 40, although cells 41 formed at the end regions of a stent are generally not entirely bounded by material 20. The removed material 42 will generally become waste material and be discarded. Material to be removed 42 may further be described as a material zone 42 which will be removed. A material zone 42 may comprise an edge zone 42a, which abuts an edge 22 of the material 20. A material zone 42 may also comprise an interior zone 42b having an area depicted by a portion of the dashed stent pattern 40 outline, wherein the eventual cell 41 must be formed by removing from an interior portion 42b of the material.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, lines 6-12 with the following amended paragraph:

--A portion 48 of a zone 42, the portion 48 having an area less than the area of each zone 42, may be removed using a lead-in path 44, and cutting along a portion of a final cut path 46 after a lead-in 30 length has been traversed. In some cases, a lead-out path 50 is desirable. A lead-out comprises a continuance of a full thickness cut 28 away from a final cut path 46 and into the interior of a zone 42. A lead-out path 50 may join with a lead-in path 44 to complete removal of the portion 48 of material 20 from the zone 42. A portion 48 of an adjacent zone 42 may then be removed.--